

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

December 13, 2005

6:00 PM

Rockford City Hall, Conference Room B

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ald. Doug Mark, Valerie Olafson, Sally Faber, Scott Sanders, Laura Bachelder

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeanne Ludeke, Frank St. Angel

STAFF: Ginny Gregory, Christine Sledge

OTHERS: Mike Pauly, Rockford Park District (333 15th Avenue); Edith Ericka Holdmann, Gary Anderson (109 North Main Street); Chandler Anderson (421 South First Street)

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 PM by Chairman Val Olafson.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made by Scott Sanders to approve the minutes of November 8, 2005. The motion was seconded by Ald. Doug Mark and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

♦ 333 15th Avenue (Beyer Stadium Gatehouse)

The proposal was to install a new rooftop sign on the structure commemorating the Rockford Peaches. Mike Pauly with the Rockford Park District [owners of the property] explained that they have come up with a new sign that would be mounted with steel brackets. He said that the sign would add a little more pizzazz and information in a nostalgic design based on a Rockford Peaches scorecard. Scott Sanders said that the sign was OK even though it does not follow guidelines. This is a unique structure that the guidelines don't really fit.

A **MOTION** was made by Scott Sanders to **APPROVE** the application as read with the sign to be mounted with steel brackets on the roof. The motion was seconded by Ald. Doug Mark and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0.

♦ 411 Kent Street (Tinker Swiss Cottage Museum)

Laura Bachelder, Executive Director of Tinker, said that Kent Street ends at Booker Washington Center rather than connecting with Winnebago Street to the west; consequently, a lot of the neighbors cut through the park going in and out onto Winnebago going at speeds up to 45 mph. She said that the abandoned street is used as a pedestrian area by museum staff and visitors as a path between museum buildings and is constantly interrupted by car traffic (often at high speeds) and has been a high safety concern. She said they have come up with ideas such as speed bumps and gates as a means of blocking the traffic. Sundstrand donated \$2,000 this year to help; however \$5,000 is still needed. Laura

said that something needs to be done now to ensure visitors and staff safety. She said that the museum has looked into cast iron gates at the Winnebago and Kent Street entrances; however, both cast iron gates and decorative bollards have proven prohibitively expensive. She talked to Mike Pauly at the Park District and they have come up with a plan using standard pipe gates and a way to form the structures. They have received a bid for gates that would be painted dark brown to match the trim color on the museum buildings. She said that the museum proposes installing one at the Carriage House adjacent to the tool shed and the second west of the Tinker Barn where the stone pavers end and asphalt begins. Mike Pauly said that the Park District uses similar pipe gates in 20 other locations. Laura said that ideally they would like to do decorative fencing in the future.

A **MOTION** was made by to Scott Sanders to **APPROVE** the application as read. The motion was seconded by Ald. Doug Mark and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0 with one abstention (Laura Bachelder).

◆ **109 North Main Street**

Gary Anderson, architect for the applicants, explained that they would like to add an exterior 2nd floor deck with access from their residence on the top floor. The structure would be steel with a 2 x 6 wood or composite deck. He said a staircase would come up to the deck area. Gary said that there would be added a shed roof with a half wall behind it as shown in the plans submitted with the application.

A **MOTION** was made by Sally Faber to **APPROVE** the application as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ald. Doug Mark and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0

◆ **421 South First Street**

Chandler Anderson said that the property previously received a Certificate of Appropriateness for the front porch that showed a railing 36 inches high. However, he would like to modify the Certificate for the front porch to lower the railing to 30 inches because 36 inches is too high. He showed the new drawings. Ginny mentioned that she had discussed this with the Building Department and they would accept the 30-inch height on the front porch because of its historic character. The railing on the rear porch, however, would have to remain at 36" because of the distance between the porch and the ground.

A **MOTION** was made by Scott Sanders to **APPROVE** the application as read. It was seconded by Sally Faber and **CARRIED** by a vote of 5-0.

◆ **Request from River District for letter of endorsement for a grant proposal for an architecture and history booklet**

Ginny said that the River District is putting together a book of about 50 pages describing the architecture and history of the River District. They are applying for a grant from the Graham Foundation to help pay for it which requires three letters of endorsement. She asked if the Commission would be amenable to submitting such a letter. The consensus was that this would be appropriate and directed Ginny to prepare the letter.

◆ **2006 Meeting Schedule**

Everyone agreed to meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 PM.

◆ **Violations**

628 Grove Street

In a Certificate of Appropriateness granted in 1999, the homeowners were told to put their small satellite dish back as far as they could on the roof of the front porch. Valerie said that we told them back further south. Ginny said the current location is a minor improvement on what it was before. Gary Anderson said that they have been noticing a lot of satellites not in compliance and that HPC needs to set a policy. Ginny said there is a guideline to cover them – that a dish was to be placed where it is least visible from the street. Laura said that to do something about it now would be hard due to the weather. Scott said that he would drive by and take photos and let Ginny know where the satellite should be placed.

208 South Second Street

Ginny indicated that the owner had installed a substantial metal flue on the north side of the house at the corner of 2nd and Walnut Streets. The owner told the building inspector he is waiting on Chandler Anderson to fix it. The building inspector thought there was a way to fix the vent. Ald. Doug Mark said that the building inspector should take the necessary steps. Ginny will send a letter and talk to the building inspector and have him ask the homeowner to get into compliance.

1656 Ethel Avenue

Ald. Doug Mark said that there was a violation on Ethel Avenue where the property was sold and the former owner did not tell the new one about the violation. Ginny said that the new owners are suing the previous owners. The previous owners had removed the concrete stoop and put in wooden steps and no railings after HPC denied their request for a Certificate for the work. Commission members directed her to check with the Legal Department to find out when it would be appropriate to contact the current owners about remedying the situation.

STAFF REPORT

- ◆ Ginny said that she had mailed the annual letter to all owners of locally designated properties as required by ordinance. Thus far, she has had no response from anyone in Brown's Hills/Knightsville but she did get two complaints from someone in Haight Village to turn in his neighbors.

Ginny reviewed what was in the letter that she sent out. She had the letter reviewed by someone in the Personnel Department who lives in Knightsville who said she would be willing to help organize the neighborhood meeting there. Because of the petition to withdraw that was reviewed in the previous months, the letter for that particular district was a little different from the others so she could inform all the residents of the results of the petition.

- ◆ Legal training for HPC members with City Atty. John Giliberti – planned for January 2006.
- ◆ Ginny said the Mayor's office asked her to attend a meeting concerning Camp Grant and the small museum that has been started at the Command Post restaurant on Samuelson Road. The restaurant is in a building that was part of Camp Grant. She promised to supply them with some maps and other information.

OLD BUSINESS

Val introduced Maureen Flanagan, an attorney with Hinshaw & Culbertson, whom she has recommended to take her place on the Commission. Ginny indicated that she had forwarded her resume to the Mayor's Office. Scott Sanders said that Mike Pauly of the Park District is still thinking about taking his place on the Commission but has not decided as yet.

OTHER

A special River District meeting to provide information on financial incentives for preservation projects on December 14, 2005 may be postponed due to the weather. The speakers are with IHPA and would have to drive here from Springfield.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Sledge
Senior Clerk